

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: ATTITUDE OF GOM TOWARD COCOA AGREEMENT

REFS: (A) 12/2/75 STATE A-7228, (B) STATE 12368

1. NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT ENDED OCTOBER 20 WITH AGREEMENT BY MOST PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. THE U.S. AND IVORY COAST EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ON SOME OF THE ECONOMIC PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT TEXT. SPECIFIC U.S. RESERVATIONS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ARE DISCUSSED IN REF (A).

2. FOR THE AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO FORCE PRODUCERS

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REPRESENTING 80 PERCENT OF WORLD PRODUCTION MUST ADHERE

BY AUGUST 31, 1976. THE IVORY COAST (MEMBER OF CURRENT AGREEMENT), THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND MEXICO (ALL NON-MEMBERS) ACCOUNT FOR 22.2 PERCENT OF WORLD PRODUCTION, AND THEREFORE COULD BLOCK ENTRY INTO FORCE THROUGH NON-PARTICIPATION.

3. ON DECEMBER 11, 1975 THE HEAD OF THE MEXICAN COCOA INSTITUTE (MARCO A. SOLIS) TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE AGREEMENT WAS A GOOD ONE; HE IS NOT EAGER TO PAY ONE CENT PER POUND TO THE BUFFER STOCK FOR NOTHING; IT MAY NOT BE CONVENIENT FOR MEXICO TO JOIN IF BOTH THE U.S. AND IVORY COAST REMAIN OUT; AND MEXICO CAN WAIT A WHILE BEFORE MAKING A DECISION IN ANY EVENT.

4. AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH FOUR OF REF (B) WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO SIGN THE NEW COCOA AGREEMENT IN ITS PRESENT FORM. WE CONSIDER THE AGREEMENT DEFICIENT IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS AND HAVE SUGGESTED CERTAIN PROVISIONS BE RENEGOTIATED. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONSULT GOM OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SOLIS, WHO STATED HE EXPECTED POLICY GUIDANCE FROM OTHER SOURCES, AND REPORT THEIR CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARD JOINING THE NEW AGREEMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE U.S. STATEMENT IN REF (B). SISCO

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